



ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP

Incorporated 1765

Gabriel C. Plumer
Mayor

Jim Kiernan
Deputy Mayor/ Township Committeeman

R. Christian Pfefferle
Township Committeeman

Michele Bobrowski
Township Clerk/Administrator

Press Release:

Alexandria Township

Meeting Location Announcement:

The next meetings of the Alexandria Board of Health and Township Committee will be held at the Delaware Valley Regional High School Cafeteria on Wed., December 8th and January 12th. Doors will open at 7:00 PM and masks are required by the school for all who attend the meeting. Members of the public will not be permitted into the meeting without a mask, so all are asked to be prepared prior to arrival. The Board of Health meeting will begin at 7:30 PM and the Township Committee meeting will follow at 7:35 PM.

Upcoming Land Use Board Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, December 16th and Thursday, January 20th at the Delaware Valley Regional High School Cafeteria. The same mask requirement shall apply to all entering the meeting. Doors open for the Land Use Board at 7:00 PM and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

Statement on Medical Cannabis in Alexandria Township:

The Alexandria Township Committee has been made aware of certain incomplete information circulating within the community and wishes to review the current process in detail with all interested Township residents regarding a proposed medical cannabis growing and processing facility that **has not yet been approved**. The following information is consolidated here as a helpful guide for residents and members of the press.

In 2018, the Alexandria Township Committee adopted a resolution supporting the need for zoning regulations for facilities seeking to grow medical marijuana within the Township after three different companies approached the governing body seeking its support for licenses to cultivate medical marijuana. The 2018 resolution supported the idea of medical cannabis growing in general, but clearly articulated that land use ordinances would need to be debated and established. The Township passed this resolution as part of an application process dictated by the State of New Jersey at the time. It also

passed a resolution in 2019 specific to the currently proposed medical cannabis facility at Airport Road which was originally sought by Standard Farms, which then became Altus New Jersey, LLC "Altus".

As part of the process, the Land Use Board began discussions with professionals, land use board members, and the public to determine *if* and potentially how to permit medical marijuana growing facilities in the Township. During that time, the process at the State level was delayed and the land use discussion was consequently suspended until such time as the Township received additional information from the State of New Jersey which would help guide it in continuing with the process.

In late October of 2021, the Township was notified by Altus that it had been granted a "vertical" Alternative Treatment Center license as a result of its original application in 2019. A vertical license allows it to grow, process and sell marijuana products at a dispensary. The company advised that it did not intend to sell cannabis to consumers here as a retailer, but at a separate location outside the Township; however, it was seeking renewed support for a cannabis growing and processing facility in the Township as a condition of the State's issuance of the license and needed an answer by November 12, 2021. (As part of awarding of these licenses, the State requires the successful applicants to have their locations already determined at the time of the application is made). The group currently approved with the license (and its predecessor company) had previously approached the Township in 2018 and 2019 with the location on Airport Road, as part of its initial application made to the State.

At the next available public meeting, the Township Committee discussed and decided that the Land Use Board should resume the discussion to determine *if* and potentially how to permit cannabis growing and processing operations within Alexandria Township.

The State of New Jersey provided a small window of only 20 days for the recipient to reestablish support from the municipality, following the award of the license in October. Again, the Township Committee voted to approve the general idea of supporting medicinal cannabis growing/processing and *acknowledged* a proposed location in order to allow the Land Use Board the time it needed to review and establish recommendations for ordinances. The governing body's preferred method would have been for the State of New Jersey to allow the Township sufficient time to conduct a thorough review with professionals at the Land Use Board. However, that was not an option based upon the current licensing standards from the State.

Regarding the resolution recently adopted at the November 8, 2021 Township Committee meeting, Mayor Gabe Plumer stated, "This is not an approval of this facility. The Alexandria Township Committee does not make site specific determinations. This was a vote taken because of the constraints of state-mandated rules. Our vote is for a process to occur that will consist of professional and public input at the Land Use Board. The correct process, one that has always been followed in Alexandria Township, is to have the Land Use Board explore, debate, and recommend land use ordinances to the Township Committee. That has not occurred yet, but it is a process that *should* occur. We need the

Land Use Board to diligently collect information on this matter and hear from professionals and the public, so that Alexandria Township can appropriately structure ordinances that either permit this in some fashion or close the book entirely on any of these operations moving forward. Regardless of the outcome, it is critical we arrive at a conclusion *now* that is independent of any process dictated by the state of the New Jersey currently or in the future."

"As a matter of record, the resolution passed by the Township Committee restricts the ability of this group to apply for a use or other variance and subjects them to the outcome of these Land Use Board discussions. Again, I cannot state it in stronger terms: **this proposed facility has not been approved**. This process and the potential outcomes, including an outright ban on all cannabis operations in the township, were clearly communicated at a recent meeting to all members of the public in attendance, including representatives of the group with the recently awarded license. I have been in contact with State officials to express how thoughtlessly detrimental the state's process has been for all parties. That being said, the State of New Jersey's nonsensical mandates in this process will not impact Alexandria Township's determination to follow the correct land use process."

"The Township Committee and the Land Use Board welcomes all residents to public meetings to voice their opinions. In Alexandria Township, ***public*** officials listen to the ***public*** and we look forward to hearing from interested residents in the near future at our Township Committee meetings and most importantly, at the Land Use Board meetings."